

Community First Research and Demonstration Concept Paper Response to Forum Participants

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the Executive Office of Elder Affairs extend their appreciation to the participants of the community forums that were held in December 2005 and January 2006. The Community First Steering Committee (comprised of representatives from multiple state agencies) found the ideas and suggestions provided by participants at the community forums helped them more fully understand the important issues that need to be addressed, and were instrumental in further refining the draft concept paper. Although you may not see some issues raised addressed in the concept paper, the Committee will continue to explore these issues during the preparation of the Demonstration application and welcomes further stakeholder input. Opportunities for further input will be available during the Demonstration application process.

This document summarizes some of the issues, ideas, and suggestions received during the forums and how they have been incorporated into the current draft concept paper. Included with this document is a copy of the revised concept paper, which will be available on the EOHHS website in May, 2006.

The issues covered in the below topic areas will be finalized for the Demonstration application based on ongoing data analysis and stakeholder input.

Topic Area: Eligibility for the Proposed Waiver
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Many forum participants felt that the Concept Paper should be more clear about eligibility for each group and about the type of services that those in group 3 (“current nursing facility residents”) would receive. There were questions about how individuals within each group will be selected for enrollment.

- The Concept Paper now describes that individuals in the “imminent risk” group will be at current nursing facility level of care and reside in the community.
- The Concept Paper has been clarified to convey that criteria for the “prevention group” will be finalized for the waiver application based on ongoing data analysis and stakeholder input.
- The Concept Paper has been clarified to explain that the “nursing facility residents” group will be eligible to receive transition services, which include items such as one-time costs (e.g., security deposits) and residential supportive adaptations.
- The concept paper now reflects that “other disabilities” includes physical and developmental disabilities.

Topic Area: Services To Be Covered Under the Demonstration

Forum participants voiced their opinion about additional services that should be included in the Demonstration. Preliminary discussions in the Concept Paper propose that “money management” may be added to the service package. Also, clarification regarding what is meant by transition services for nursing home residents was added.

Topic Area: Service Delivery System
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Forum participants asked for clarification as to whether anyone will be required to go into managed care, what the role of managed care programs will be under the Demonstration, and how might existing programs (such as SCO and PACE) be modified under the Demonstration. There were questions about the role of the ASAP system and other existing delivery systems.

The concept paper now more clearly describes that managed care plans will be one option through which enrollees can receive services. Once individuals are deemed eligible for the demonstration, enrollees will be able to select their delivery system from a menu of options, such as ASAPs, ILCs, and managed care plans (such as PACE and SCO).

Topic Area: Care Coordination

Forum participants had questions about what organizations will serve as care coordination entities under the demonstration and who will fill the role of the care coordinators.

The specifics of care coordination will be more fully developed for the final Demonstration application. The Concept Paper now includes more detail on the proposed care coordination services.

Topic Area: Enrollment Cap

Forum participants expressed concern about the proposed 10,000 person cap on the Demonstration, and how these slots would be allocated among the different groups potentially eligible for the Demonstration. The Concept Paper now describes that the estimated 10,000 person cap and any possible allocations will be discussed further during the development of the Demonstration application.

Topic Area: Targeting and Assessment

Forum participants asked for clarification on targeted enrollment.

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The exact targeting process will be fully defined during the Demonstration application process, but the Concept Paper now describes that individuals who are most at risk for nursing facility admission will be targeted for the imminent risk and prevention groups..

Other Issues and Coordination with Other Initiatives

Forum participants also raised a number of issues in other areas, such as housing and workforce development, which are not included in the Demonstration project. Such issues may be addressed by the recently-awarded Systems Transformation Grant from CMS. In particular, the three areas targeted by the Systems Transformation Grant are housing, diversion, and quality. In this way, the Systems Transformation Grant and the research and demonstration proposal will be complementary.